a processor-based device; and

a port connectable to receive power from a power source and to provide automatically power class information to said power source.

REMARKS

The formal objections set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the office action have been cured.

The independent claims have been amended to call for the provision of power class information. Power class information provides an advantageous way of easily and compactly providing information about the power consuming characteristics of a power sink. All of the claims are now so limited.

As pointed out in the office action in paragraph 6, Oprescu does not teach requesting power class information from the sinks. The Examiner contends that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the power manager taught by Oprescu to request power class information. The alleged rationale to modify is that "because then the power manager would control the time when data is received, therefore it is receiving information from two components simultaneously." This asserted rationale to modify Oprescu is essentially nowhere derived from Oprescu himself. Instead, it is the result of hindsight reasoning. Plainly, the rationale is that because doing what is claimed would be better, Oprescu would be wise to do so.
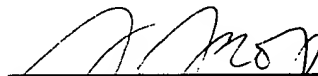
However, as explained in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, it is incumbent upon the Examiner to demonstrate, from within the prior art itself, the rationale to modify. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.01 "The Prior Art must suggest the desirability of the claimed invention." The Examiner cannot supply the rationale to modify, having learned of its desirability as a result of reviewing the claimed invention. In other words, an objective indication of the rationale to modify must come from within the prior art, not from the Examiner having been aided by seeing the applicant's solution.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____8/21/02_____

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APPENDIX

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification on page 4, line 7, to read:

Referring next to Figure 2, not only may a tightly or loosely coupled connection be implemented between the source 12a and the sink 14a, but moreover, a given source 12a may provide power to a plurality of sinks. Thus, in the example shown in Figure 2, the source 12a may be an AC adapter and the sink 14 may be a mobile computer system 14a. A link 16c with plugs 24 and sockets 22 provides connections between the sink 14a and the source 12a. Particularly, a plug 24a plugs into a socket 22a on the sink 14a and a plug 24b plugs into a socket 22b on the source 12a. The source 12a is coupled to a source of AC power indicated at 18.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1 (Amended). A method comprising:

      detecting the coupling of a power sink to a power source; [and]

      automatically requesting a power class indication from the sink; and

      [sending a data signal between the source and the sink to determine whether the source can provide power to the sink] using said power class indication to determine whether to supply power to said sink.

Please cancel claims 4 and 5.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11 (Amended). An article comprising a medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to:

      detect the coupling of a power sink to a power source; [and]

      request a power class indication from the power sink; and

      [send a data signal between the source and the sink to determine whether the source can provide power to the sink] determine whether the available power on said source is sufficient to supply the power needs of said power sink.

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Please amend claim 21 as follows:

21 (Amended). A system comprising:

a connection to a source of power;

a plurality of ports to couple said system to power consuming devices; and

a processor-based device which analyzes <u>power class</u> information received from power consuming devices and <u>automatically</u> determines whether to supply power to said power consuming devices through said ports.

Please amend claim 24 as follows:

24 (Amended). The system of claim 21 wherein said processor-based device determines whether to provide power to a power consuming device <u>that</u> is connected to said system.

Please amend claim 26 as follows:

26 (Amended). A system comprising:

power consuming circuitry;

a processor-based device; and

a port connectable to receive power from a power source and to [exchange a data with] <u>provide automatically power class information to</u> said power source.